

AN ORDINANCE

BY COUNCILMEMBER CLAIR MULLER

02- O -0237

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER TWO, ARTICLE, II
DIVISION 2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY
OF ATLANTA BY AMENDING SECTION 2-66; TO SET A
TIME LIMIT FOR THE CONDUCT OF REGULAR CITY
COUNCIL MEETINGS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING
ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the Atlanta City Charter requires that the City Council meet at least twice each month, on the first and third Monday with the exception of April, August and December when the Council is in recess; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta City Council begins its full Council meetings at 1:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the thorough debate and exploration of the details of legislation is properly done in the City Council Committees which meet during the week immediately preceding Full Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the function of the City Council Committees there are occasions on which the consideration and debate of legislation results in Full Council Meetings which can exceed 8 hours in length; and

WHEREAS, a business meeting that exceeds a normal 8-hour work day is unfair to City Council members and staff who must remain intellectually sharp and capable of making decisions with significant consequences, no matter how late the hour; and

WHEREAS, this custom of marathon Council Meetings is an unhealthy practice.

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAIN AS
FOLLOWS:**

SECTION ONE: That Chapter Two, Article II, Division 2 of the Code of Ordinances be amended by striking existing Section 2-66 in its entirety and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

Section 2-66 Regular Meetings

The council shall hold regular meetings commencing at 1:00 p.m. Such regular meetings shall last no later than 6:00 p.m. In the event that there is any business not concluded by 6:00 p.m., the regular meeting shall be recessed until 1:00 p.m. the next business day. Any business not concluded by 6:00 p.m. on the second day shall be automatically deferred until the committee reports portion of the agenda at the next regularly scheduled meeting. In no event shall any regularly scheduled city council meeting be extended beyond two days.

SECTION TWO: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.